1 2 3 4	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT TACOMA			
5 6 7 8	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)			
9 10	Plaintiff,)	No. 3:21-CV-5672		
11 12	v.)			
13 14 15 16 17 18 19	Gardner-Fields, Inc.) and Gardner-Gibson, Inc.)	CIVIL COMPLAINT		
	Defendants.			
20 21	COMPLAINT			
22	Plaintiff, the United States of A	merica, by the authority of the Attorney General of the		
23	United States, through the undersigned attorneys, acting at the request of the Administrator of the			
24	United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), files this Complaint and alleges the			
25	following:			
26	I. <u>PRELIMINARY STATEMENT</u>			
27	1. This is a civil action brought pursuant to the Clean Water Act (CWA),			
28	33 U.S.C. § 1251 <u>et seq.</u> , against Ga	ardner-Fields, Inc. and Gardner-Gibson, Inc. (collectively,		
	Civil Complaint United States v. Gardner-Fields, Inc., 6	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE Environment and Natural Resources Division P.O. Box 7611, Washington DC 20044-7611 (202) 305-0302		

1	Gardner or Defendants), seeking civil penalties arising from Defendants' discharge of		
2	petroleum-based liquid asphalt from its facility in Tacoma, Washington (Facility) into or upon		
3	the navigable waters of the United States and/or adjoining shorelines and violations of the		
4	CWA's Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasures regulations discovered during two		
5	subsequent inspections of the Facility.		
6	II. <u>JURISDICTION, VENUE AND AUTHORITY</u>		
7	2. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action pursuant to		
8	Sections 309(b), 311(b)(7)(E), and 311(n) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1319(b), 1321(b)(7)(E),		
9	and 1321(n); and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1345, and 1355. The Court has personal jurisdiction		
10	over the Parties.		
11	3. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to Section 311(b)(7)(E) of the		
12	CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(b)(7)(E), and pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b) and (c) and 1395(a)		
13	because Defendants are doing business within the district and a substantial part of the events		
14	giving rise to the claims occurred within the district.		
15	4. Authority to bring this action is vested in the United States Department of		
16	Justice pursuant to Section 506 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1366.		
17	III. <u>PARTIES</u>		
18	5. Plaintiff is the United States of America, acting at the request of EPA, an		
19	agency of the United States.		
20	6. Defendant Gardner-Fields, Inc., a corporation organized under the laws of the		
21	State of Delaware, operates the asphalt and coating materials Facility described in Paragraph		
22	1, above.		

1	7. Defendant Gardner-Gibson, Inc., a corporation based out of Tampa, Florida		
2	and organized under the laws of the State of Delaware, owns the Facility described in		
3	Paragraph 1, above.		
4	IV. <u>STATUTORY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK</u>		
5	8. The Clean Water Act is designed to restore and maintain the chemical,		
6	physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters. 33 U.S.C. § 1251(a).		
7	A. Discharge Violations		
8	9. Section 311(b) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(b), prohibits the discharge of		
9	oil or hazardous substances into or upon the navigable waters of the United States or adjoining		
10	shorelines in such quantities as the President determines may be harmful to the public health		
11	or welfare or environment of the United States.		
12	10. Section 311(a)(2) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(a)(2), defines "discharge" to		
13	include "any spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying or dumping," except as		
14	specifically excluded therein.		
15	11. Section 311(a)(1) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(a)(1), and 40 C.F.R. § 112.2		
16	define "oil" to mean "oil of any kind or in any form," including petroleum-based asphalt. 67		
17	Fed. Reg. 47075 (July 17, 2002).		
18	12. Section 502(7) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1362(7), defines "navigable waters"		
19	as "the waters of the United States, including the territorial seas."		
20	13. In turn, "waters of the United States" have been defined to include, among		
21	other things, all waters which are currently used, were used in the past, or may be susceptible		
22	to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including all waters which are subject to the ebb and		
23	flow of the tide, and tributaries to such waters. See, e.g., 40 C.F.R. § 110.1 (1993). See also		
24	40 C.F.R. § 112.2 (1973).		
	Civil Complaint United States v. Gardner-Fields, Inc., et al. UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICI Environment and Natural Resources Division P.O. Box 7611, Washington DC 20044-7611 (202) 305-0302		

1	14.	Pursuant to Section 311(b)(4) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(b)(4), EPA,
2	acting through	its delegated authority under Executive Order No. 11,735, 38 Fed. Reg. 21,243
3	(Aug. 7, 1973)	and Executive Order No. 12,777, 56 Fed. Reg. 54,757 (Oct. 18, 1991), has
4	determined by 1	regulation that discharges of oil in such quantities as may be harmful to the
5	public health or	welfare or environment of the United States include discharges of oil that "(a)
6	[v]iolate application	able water quality standards; or (b) [c]ause a film or sheen upon or
7	discoloration of the surface of the water or adjoining shorelines or cause a sludge or emulsion	
8	to be deposited beneath the surface of the water or upon adjoining shorelines." 40 C.F.R. §	
9	110.3.	
10	15.	Section 311(b)(7)(A) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(b)(7)(A), provides that
11	any person who	is the owner, operator, or person in charge of an onshore facility from which
12	oil is discharge	d in violation of Section 311(b)(3) of the CWA shall be subject to a civil
13	penalty.	
14	16.	Section 311(a)(7) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(a)(7), defines "person" to
15	include corporations.	
16	17.	Section 311(a)(6), 33 U.S.C. § 1321(a)(6), defines "owner or operator" to
17	include "any person owning or operating [an] onshore facility"	
18	18.	Section 311(a)(10), 33 U.S.C. § 1321(a)(10), defines "onshore facility" to
19	mean a facility	of "any kind located in, on, or under, any land within the United States, other
20	than submerged	I land."
21	19.	Pursuant to Section 311(b)(7)(A) of the CWA and 40 C.F.R. § 19.4, Table 2,
22	each violation of	of Section 311(b)(3) of the CWA occurring after December 6, 2013 through

1	November 2, 2015, is subject to a civil penalty of up to \$37,500 per day or up to \$2,100 per		
2	barrel of oil discharged.		
3	B. SPCC and FRP Regulations		
4 5	20. Section 311(j) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(j), provides for the regulation of		
6	onshore facilities to prevent and contain discharges of oil. Specifically, Section 311(j)(l)(C) of		
7	the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(j)(l)(C), provides that the President shall issue regulations to		
8	establish procedures, methods, and equipment to prevent discharges of oil from onshore		
9	facilities and to contain such discharges if they do occur.		
10	21. Initially by Executive Order 11,548 (July 20, 1970), 35 Fed. Reg. 11677 (July		
11	22, 1970), and most recently by Section 2(b)(l) of Executive Order 12,777 (October 18, 1991),		
12	56 Fed. Reg. 54757 (October 22, 1991), the President delegated to EPA this Section		
13	311(j)(1)(C) authority to issue the regulations referenced in the preceding Paragraph for non-		
14	transportation-related onshore facilities.		
15	22. Pursuant to this delegated statutory authority and its authorities under the		
16	CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq., to implement Section 311(j), EPA promulgated such		
17	regulations, including the Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Regulations (SPCC		
18	Regulations), which are codified at 40 C.F.R. § 112.1-12, and the Facility Response Plan		
19	Regulations (FRP Regulations), which are codified at 40 C.F.R. §§ 112.20-21.		
20	23. The SPCC Regulations apply to any owner and operator of a non-		
21	transportation-related onshore facility that is engaged in, among other things, storing or		
22	distributing oil or oil products, which due to its location, could reasonably be expected to		
23	discharge oil in quantities that may be harmful into or upon the navigable waters of the United		

1	States or adjoining shorelines, and that has oil in, among other things, any aboveground
2	container. See 40 C.F.R. § 112.1(b).
3	24. The SPCC Regulations define "person" to include corporations. 40 C.F.R.
4	§ 112.2.
5	25. The SPCC Regulations define "onshore facility" to mean any facility of any
6	kind located in, on, or under, any land within the United States other than submerged lands.
7	40 C.F.R. § 112.2.
8	26. In the case of an onshore facility, the SPCC Regulations define "owner or
9	operator" to include any person owning or operating such onshore facility. 40 C.F.R. § 112.2.
10	27. The SPCC Regulations define "oil" to mean oil of any kind or in any form,
11	including, but not limited to, vegetable oils, petroleum, fuel oil, sludge, synthetic oils, oil
12	refuse, and oil mixed with wastes other than dredged spoil. 40 C.F.R. § 112.2.
13	28. "Non-transportation-related," as applied to an onshore facility is defined to
14	include industrial or commercial facilities which use and store oil, but excluding any terminal
15	facility, unit, or process integrally associated with the handling or transferring of oil in bulk to
16	or from a vessel. 40 C.F.R. § 112.2, App. A (Memorandum of Understanding Between the
17	Secretary of Transportation and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency).
18	29. Pursuant to the SPCC Regulations, the owner or operator of an onshore
19	facility that has an above ground storage capacity of more than 1,320 gallons of oil, and which
20	due to its location, could reasonably be expected to discharge oil in quantities that may be
21	harmful into or upon the navigable waters of the United States or adjoining shorelines, must
22	prepare and implement a Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure Plan (SPCC Plan) that
23	adheres to certain requirements as detailed in the SPCC Regulations. 40 C.F.R. § 112.7.

1	30. A facility's SPCC Plan must include a discussion of the facility's
2	conformance with the requirements detailed in the SPCC Regulations, 40 C.F.R.
3	§ 112.7(a)(1), including in part relevant to this Complaint:
4	a. Where experience indicates a reasonable potential for equipment failure,
5	the SPCC Plan must include a prediction of the direction, rate of flow, and total quantity of oil
6	which could be discharged from the facility as a result of each type of major equipment failure
7	(40 C.F.R. § 112.7(b));
8	b. Appropriate containment and/or diversionary structures or equipment (40
9	C.F.R. § 112.7(c));
10	c. Inspections and tests in accordance with written procedures and records
11	for each inspection and test (40 C.F.R. § 112.7(e));
12	d. Procedures for facility tank car and tank truck loading and unloading (40
13	C.F.R. § 112.7(h)); and
14	e. Evaluation of containers for risk of discharge or failure due to brittle
15	fracture or other catastrophe (40 C.F.R. § 112.7(i)).
16	31. In addition to the general requirements in Paragraph 30 above, the owner and
17	operator of an onshore facility must create its SPCC Plan to meet specific discharge
18	prevention and containment procedures, 40 C.F.R. § 112.8, including in part relevant to this
19	Complaint:
20	a. Adequate facility drainage, and the use of valves to restrain drainage from
21	diked storage areas (40 C.F.R. § 112.8(b);
22	b. Adequate construction of bulk storage containers and corresponding
23	secondary containment (40 C.F.R. § 112.8(c)(2));

Civil Complaint *United States v. Gardner-Fields, Inc., et al.*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE Environment and Natural Resources Division P.O. Box 7611, Washington DC 20044-7611 (202) 305-0302

1	c. Proper design and protocols for uncontaminated rainwater bypass valves
2	(40 C.F.R. § 112.8(c)(3));
3	d. Periodic integrity testing of aboveground bulk storage containers and
4	retention of documentation related thereto, including comparison records, and determination,
5	in accordance with industry standards, of the appropriate qualifications for personnel
6	performing tests and inspections (40 C.F.R. § 112.8(c)(6));
7	e. Adequate design and testing of overfill prevention measures, including
8	liquid level sensing devices, to avoid discharges (40 C.F.R. § 112.8(c)(8));
9	f. Observation of the facility's effluent treatment facilities frequently enough
10	to detect possible system upsets that could cause a discharge (40 C.F.R. § 112.8(c)(9));
11	g. Prompt correction of visible discharges which result in a loss of oil from a
12	container, including removal of any accumulations of oil (40 C.F.R. § 112.8(c)(10)); and
13	h. Position or locate mobile or portable oil storage containers to prevent a
14	discharge and furnish a secondary means of containment sufficient to contain the capacity of the
15	largest single compartment or container with sufficient freeboard to contain precipitation (40
16	C.F.R. § 112.8(c)(11)).
17	32. The FRP Regulations require that certain owners and operators prepare,
18	implement, and submit to EPA a Facility Response Plan (FRP) for responding to a worst case
19	discharge of oil or hazardous substances and to a substantial threat of such a discharge. 40
20	C.F.R. §§ 112.1 and 112.20.
21	33. Pursuant to the FRP Regulations, owners and operators of non-transportation-
22	related-onshore facilities that, because of its location, could reasonably be expected to cause

1	substantial hai	rm to the environment by discharging oil into or on the navigable waters or
2	adjoining shor	relines shall prepare and submit an FRP to EPA. 40 C.F.R. §112.20(a).
3	34.	A facility could, because of its location, reasonably be expected to cause
4	substantial har	rm to the environment by discharging oil into or on the navigable waters or
5	adjoining shorelines if its total oil storage capacity is greater than or equal to one million	
6	gallons, and, t	he facility, among other things, has had a reportable oil discharge in an amount
7	greater than or equal to 10,000 gallons within the last five years. 40 C.F.R. §	
8	112.20(f)(1)(ii)(D).	
9	35.	Pursuant to Section 311(b)(7)(C) of the CWA, and 40 C.F.R. § 19.4, (Tables 1
10	and 2), each v	iolation of Section 311(j) of the CWA occurring after December 6, 2013
11	through November 2, 2015, is subject to a civil penalty of up to \$37,500 per day, and \$48,762	
12	per day for each violation occurring thereafter. 40 C.F.R. § 19.4.	
13		V. <u>FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS</u>
14 15	A. Th	ne Facility
16	36.	At all times relevant to this action, Defendants owned and/or operated the
17	Facility.	
18	37.	The Facility is located at 2240 Taylor Way, Tacoma, Washington 98421.
19	38.	The Facility manufactures and warehouses roofing and waterproofing
20	products comp	posed of asphalt and other coating materials. The Facility's primary Standard
21	Industrial Classification (SIC) code is 29520000 (Asphalt Felts and Coatings) and primary	
22	NAICS code i	s 324122 (Asphalt Shingle and Coating Materials Manufacturing).
23	39.	The Facility has a total above-ground oil storage tank capacity of over 4.2
24	million gallon	s.

1	40.	The Facility has a total of thirty bulk storage containers and approximately
2	twenty-three o	operational tanks (mixing tanks, dispensing tanks, water tanks, etc.) that are used
3	-	d mixing petroleum-related products, water, and associated additives.
4	41.	The oil storage tanks are located in several different outdoor tank "farms,"
5		Still Yard Tank Farm and the Large Storage Tank Area.
6	42.	The Large Storage Tank Area, located in the western portion of the Facility,
7		storage tanks, Tank 61 and Tank 62, each with a capacity of 1.7 million gallons.
8	43.	Raw asphalt is received by rail cars via two rail spurs along the western side of
9	•	Asphalt is delivered from the rail cars to the Large Storage Tank Area via above-
10	ground transfe	er piping.
11	44.	The Still Yard Tank Farm includes twenty storage tanks that hold both asphalt
12	and mineral s	pirits.
13	45.	Asphalt and mineral spirits are received by tanker trucks at the truck
14	offloading are	ea in the northern part of the Facility. Asphalt is delivered from tanker trucks to
15	the Still Yard	Tank Farm via above-ground transfer piping.
16	46.	Each tank "farm" has secondary containment. The total net storage capacity
17	for secondary	containment in the Large Storage Tank Area is two million gallons.
18	47.	The majority of the containment area for the Large Storage Tank Area drains
19	via surface flo	ow to an oil water separator. There are two storm water catch basins in the
20	containment a	area, each of which is controlled by a valve that is to be maintained in the closed
21	position when	never the Facility is not actively draining stormwater.
22	48.	All valves in the stormwater catch basins are manually operated. The valves in

the Large Storage Tank Area drain to two outfalls designated Outfall 2 and Outfall 3. Outfalls

1	2 and 3 are point sources within the meaning of Section 502(14) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C.	
2	§ 1362(14).	
3 4	B. The Connection to the Puget Sound	
5	49. Outfalls 2 and 3 discharge into a channel ("Lincoln Avenue Ditch") that runs	
6	west toward Lincoln Avenue.	
7	50. The Lincoln Avenue Ditch flows northwesterly before making a ninety-degree	
8	turn to the southwest, running parallel to Lincoln Avenue before flowing to the Blair	
9	Waterway approximately 2400 feet downstream of the Facility. The Blair Waterway flows to	
10	Commencement Bay and Puget Sound.	
11	51. The Lincoln Avenue Ditch has a continuous flow to the Blair Waterway on at	
12	least a seasonal basis, including during the driest summer months. The Lincoln Avenue Ditch	
13	is therefore a tributary of the Blair Waterway.	
14	52. The Blair Waterway is subject to the ebb and flow of the tide and currently	
15	supports navigation. The Blair Waterway is therefore a traditional navigable water.	
16	53. The Lincoln Avenue ditch is and was a "water of the United States" and	
17	"navigable water" within the meaning of the CWA and applicable regulations.	
18 19	C. The Spill	
20	On or about February 8, 2015, Facility personnel were engaged in pumping	
21	petroleum-based asphalt from three rail cars, via a four inch above-ground pipeline, into the	
22	Tank 61 storage tank.	
23	55. During the process of pumping asphalt between the rail cars and Tank 61 in	
24	the Large Storage Tank Area, a flexible connection in the above-ground piping between Tank	

1	61 and Tank 62 failed, causing asphalt to overflow the oil water separator in the Facility's		
2	secondary containment.		
3	56.	On or about February 8, 2015, Facility personnel left the valve to Outfall 3 in	
4	the open posit	ion and asphalt escaped secondary containment through the open valve. Asphalt	
5	flowed into th	e Lincoln Avenue Ditch and upon its adjoining shorelines.	
6	57.	The asphalt flowed approximately six hundred feet down the Lincoln Avenue	
7	Ditch toward	the Blair Waterway, causing a film or sheen upon the surface of the water in the	
8	channel and on its adjoining shorelines. A boom and sorbent were placed to prevent any shee		
9	coming off of	the asphalt from migrating further down the channel.	
10	58.	Facility Personnel did not discover that the flexible connection had failed nor	
11	that the valve to Outfall 3 had been left open until they unloaded all three rail cars, which		
12	carried a total	volume of approximately 71,000 gallons of asphalt.	
13	59.	On April 8, 2015, Defendants provided the Washington Department of	
14	Ecology with	a Volume Estimation Worksheet that estimated that 60,000 gallons of asphalt	
15	from the spill	discharged from the Facility's secondary containment.	
16	60.	Defendants had a reportable oil discharge in an amount greater than or equal	
17	to 10,000 gall	ons. Defendants have never prepared, implemented, or submitted to EPA an	
18	FRP for the Fa	acility.	
19	61.	On August 6, 2015, EPA conducted an inspection at the Facility to determine	
20	the Facility's	compliance with the SPCC Regulations and the CWA.	
21	62.	Defendants provided EPA with a copy of an SPCC Plan dated November 2011	
22	and other info	rmation relevant to their compliance with the requirements of the SPCC	
23	Regulations.		

1	63. The August 6, 2015 inspection and review of Defendants' November 2011
2	SPCC Plan revealed multiple violations of the SPCC Regulations. Specific violations of the
3	SPCC Regulations are described in Table 1, attached to this Complaint.
4	On June 9, 2021, EPA conducted a second inspection at the Facility to
5	determine the Facility's compliance with the SPCC Regulations and the CWA.
6	65. Defendants provided EPA with a copy of an SPCC Plan dated May 24, 2021
7	and other information relevant to their compliance with the requirements of the SPCC
8	Regulations.
9	66. The June 9, 2021 inspection and review of Defendants' May 24, 2021 SPCC
10	Plan revealed additional violations of the SPCC Regulations. Specific violations of the SPCC
11	Regulations are described in Table 2, attached to this Complaint.
12 13	FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF
14 15	Discharge of Oil to Navigable Waters in Violation of Section 311(b) of the Clean Water Act
16	67. Paragraphs 1 through 66 are incorporated herein by reference.
17	68. On or about February 8, 2015, Defendants discharged approximately 60,000
18	gallons of oil, in the form of petroleum-based asphalt, to the Lincoln Avenue Ditch.
19	69. Defendants are persons that own and/or operate an onshore facility from
20	which oil was discharged to navigable waters in violation of Section 311(b)(3) of the CWA,
21	33 U.S.C. § 1321(b)(3).
	70. Pursuant to Section 311(b)(7)(A) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(b)(7)(A) and
22	***************************************
2223	40 C.F.R. § 19.4 (Table 1), Defendants are jointly and severally liable for a civil penalty of up
	40 C.F.R. § 19.4 (Table 1), Defendants are jointly and severally liable for a civil penalty of up to \$2,100 per barrel of oil discharged.

Civil Complaint *United States v. Gardner-Fields, Inc.*, et al.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE Environment and Natural Resources Division P.O. Box 7611, Washington DC 20044-7611 (202) 305-0302

1	Failure to Comply with SPCC Regulations in Violation of Section 311(j) of the CWA		
2 3	71.	Paragraphs 1 through 66 are incorporated herein by reference.	
4	72.	The Facility is a "non-transportation related" "onshore facility" that is	
5	engaged in sto	oring and distributing "oil" or oil products and has an above-ground storage	
6	capacity great	er than 1,320 gallons.	
7	73.	A discharge of oil from the Facility could reasonably be expected to discharge	
8	oil in quantitie	es that may be harmful into or upon the navigable waters of the United States or	
9	adjoining shor	relines within the meaning of 40 C.F.R. § 112.1(b).	
10	74.	Defendants are required to prepare, implement, and maintain an SPCC Plan	
11	for the Facility	y that complies with all applicable requirements set forth in the SPCC	
12	Regulations co	odified at 40 C.F.R. §§ 112.1-12.	
13	75.	Defendants failed to comply with the requirements of the CWA and the SPCC	
14	Regulations p	romulgated thereunder by failing to prepare and implement an SPCC Plan in	
15	accordance wi	th good engineering practices and failing to implement certain required spill	
16	prevention me	easures, in violation of 40 C.F.R. §§ 112.7 and 112.8. Specifically, Defendant	
17	failed to imple	ement the SPCC Regulations detailed in Table 1 and Table 2, attached to this	
18	Complaint.		
19	76.	Pursuant to Section 311(b)(7)(C) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C.	
20	§ 1321(b)(7)(d	e) and 40 C.F.R. Part 19.4 (Tables 1 and 2), Defendants are jointly and severally	
21	liable for pena	alties at the Facility in an amount up to \$37,500 per day for each violation that	
22	occurred after	January 12, 2009, through November 2, 2015, and \$48,762 per day for each	
23	violation occu	rring thereafter.	
24			

1 2	THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF			
3	Failure to Comply with FRP Regulations in Violation of Section 311(j) of the CWA			
5	77. Paragraphs 1 through 66 are incorporated herein by reference.			
6	78. The Facility is a "non-transportation related" "onshore facility" that, because			
7	of its location, could reasonably be expected to cause substantial harm to the environment by			
8	discharging oil into or on the navigable waters or adjoining shorelines within the meaning of			
9	40 C.F.R. §§ 112.1(b), 112.20(a), and 112.20(f)(1)(ii)(D).			
10	79. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 112.20(f)(1)(ii)(D), between on or about February 8,			
11	2015 and February 8, 2020, Defendant was required to prepare, implement, and submit to			
12	EPA an FRP for responding to a worst case discharge of oil or hazardous substances, and to a			
13	substantial threat of such a discharge, that conforms with applicable requirements set forth in			
14	the FRP Regulations codified at 40 C.F.R. § 112.20-21.			
15	80. Defendants failed to prepare, implement, and submit to EPA an FRP, in			
16	violation of the FRP Regulations set forth in 40 C.F.R. § 112.20-21.			
17	81. Pursuant to Section 311(b)(7)(C) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C.			
18	§ 1321(b)(7)(c) and 40 C.F.R. Part 19.4 (Tables 1 and 2), Defendants are jointly and severally			
19	liable for penalties in an amount up to \$37,500 per day for each violation that occurred after			
20	January 12, 2009, through November 2, 2015, and \$48,762 per day for each violation			
21	occurring thereafter.			
22	PRAYER FOR RELIEF			
23	WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully prays that this Court:			
24	A. Assess against Defendants a civil penalty, and enter a judgment against Defendants,			
25	jointly and severally, and in favor of the United States, in an amount up to the applicable amount			

Civil Complaint *United States v. Gardner-Fields, Inc., et al.*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE Environment and Natural Resources Division P.O. Box 7611, Washington DC 20044-7611 (202) 305-0302

1	set forth at 40 C.F.R. § 19.4 per barrel of oil for each violation of Section 311(b)(3) of the CW		
2	33 U.S.C. § 1321(b)(3), and per day for each violation of Section 311(b)(7)(C) of the CWA, 3		
3	U.S.C. § 1321(b)(7)(C); and		
4	B. Grant such other relief as this Court may deem just and proper.		
5	Respectfully submitted,		
6 7 8 9 10 11	TODD KIM Assistant Attorney General Environment and Natural Resources Division U.S. Department of Justice		
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	JOHN BRODERICK Trial Attorney Environment and Natural Resources Division, Environmental Enforcement Section United States Department of Justice P.O. Box 7611 Washington, D.C. 20044-7611 (202) 305-0302 John.Broderick@usdoj.gov TESSA M. GORMAN Acting United States Attorney Western District of Washington		
26 27 28 29 30	BRIAN KIPNIS Assistant United States Attorney Western District of Washington		
31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38	Of Counsel: Caitlin M. Soden Assistant Regional Counsel Office of Regional Counsel U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10		

TABLE 1 SPCC Violations, August 6, 2015 Inspection

Failure to provide appropriate information in the SPCC Plan about equipment to prevent a discharge, in violation of 40 C.F.R. § 112.7(a)(1) and 112.7(c).

Failure to identify in the SPCC Plan the maximum capacity of any truck that is loaded or unloaded at the truck loading rack to show conformance with the design requirements in Section 112.7(h)(1), in violation of 40 C.F.R. § 112.7(a)(1) and 112.7(h)(1).

Failure to include in the SPCC Plan an instruction that prior to the filling and departure of any tank truck or tank car, employees must closely inspect such vehicles for discharges, in violation of 40 C.F.R. § 112.7(a)(1) and 112.7(h)(3).

Failure to adequately describe facility drainage in the SPCC Plan, in violation of 40 C.F.R. §§ 112.7(a)(1), and 112.8(b)(1) and (b)(2).

Failure to provide secondary containment for the entire capacity of the largest single container and sufficient freeboard to contain precipitation, in violation of 40 C.F.R. §§ 112.7(a)(1) and 112.8(c)(2).

Failure to include in the SPCC Plan a prediction of the rate of flow of oil which could be discharged from the facility as a result of failures in above-ground storage tanks and transfer areas, in violation of 40 C.F.R. § 112.7(b).

Failure to provide appropriate containment in the walls for the Still Yard Tank Farm and Large Storage Tank Area and in the berms for the railcar unloading area, so as to prevent a discharge, in violation of 40 C.F.R. § 112.7(c).

Failure to conduct, and maintain records for, inspections and tests, in violation of 40 C.F.R. §§ 112.7(e), 112.8(c)(6).

Failure to include in the SPCC Plan the proper citation to industry standards for evaluating containers for risk of discharge or failure due to brittle fracture or other catastrophe, in violation of 40 C.F.R. § 112.7(i).

Failure in the SPCC Plan to address uncontaminated rainwater bypass protocols, in violation of 40 C.F.R. $\S 112.8(c)(3)$.

Failure to address in the SPCC Plan regular testing and calibration of liquid level sensing devices, in violation of 40 C.F.R. § 112.8(c)(8).

Failure to discuss in the SPCC Plan a schedule for observing each effluent treatment facility frequently enough to detect possible system upsets that could cause a discharge, in violation of 40 C.F.R. § 112.8(c)(9).

Failure to promptly correct multiple visible oil discharges, in violation of 40 C.F.R. § 112.8(c)(10).

4

5 6 7

8

Civil Complaint United States v. Gardner-Fields, Inc., et al.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE Environment and Natural Resources Division P.O. Box 7611, Washington DC 20044-7611 (202) 305-0302

TABLE 2 SPCC Violations, June 9, 2021 Inspection

Failure in the SPCC Plan to describe or delineate the loading rack and how the facility complies with the requirements listed in Section 112.7(h)(1)-(3), in violation of 40 C.F.R. § 112.7(a)(1) and 112.7(h).

Failure to describe or address in the SPCC Plan the appropriate qualifications for personnel performing tests and inspections and the need to maintain comparison records, in violation of 40 C.F.R. §§ 112.7(a)(1) and 112.8(c)(6).

Failure to describe with specificity in the SPCC Plan how overfill prevention measures and liquid level sensing devices are used, in violation of 40 C.F.R. §§ 112.7(a)(1) and 112.8(c)(8).

Failure to promptly correct visible discharges and to promptly remove accumulations of oil in diked areas, including a leak and resulting asphalt spill underneath the truck rack piping, in violation of 40 C.F.R. § 112.8(c)(10).

Failure to describe in the SPCC Plan the secondary containment volumes for mobile and portable containers and whether the secondary means of containment is sufficient to contain the capacity of the largest single compartment or container with sufficient freeboard to contain precipitation, in violation of 40 C.F.R. §§ 112.7(a)(1) and 112.8(c)(11).

3

1

2